



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWO EL PASO MEN DETAINED FOR POSSESSING DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that Alfredo Rubio and Juan Ortiz remain in federal custody for making and possessing fifteen destructive devices. Both defendants, who were arrested yesterday, had their initial appearance this afternoon before United States Magistrate Judge Michael McDonald. Their detention hearing and preliminary examination is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27th, 2007, at 1:30 p.m.

According to the complaint filed against them, on January 20, 2007, Defendant Rubio sold seven "pipe bombs" to an undercover ATF agent. Defendant Rubio admitted to the undercover ATF agent that he had made the pipe bombs himself and was fully aware of their capabilities as a destructive device.

According to the complaint, thereafter on February 21, 2007, Defendants Rubio and Ortiz sold an additional 15 pipe bombs to undercover ATF agents at which time the agents arrested the defendants. A search of Rubio's vehicle yielded multiple PVC pipes of varying lengths, PVC pipe cutters, a drill, lighter fluid, and additional materials needed to construct the pipe bombs.

This case is being investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives and is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Greg McDonald.

A criminal complaint is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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